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ploughing with them with a guinea each, which was unanimously agreed to.

April 20, 1812.

John Kirkby.  
J. W. Swan.

*Method of preparing Leather and Skins in the Manner of the Kalmuks.*

(From the Bulletin de Neusten.)

To prepare fine lamb-skins, they are first washed in warm water, and, after spreading them in the air, to let them dry a little, they are cleaned, by scraping with a blunt knife. This operation is intended not only to clear the skin from the fibres that adhere to it, but also to dispose them to receive with greater facility the milk which is afterwards applied to them. When the operation of scraping is completed, the skins are spread in the air on the hairy side, and are moistened for three days with sour cow's milk, to which a little salt is added. This operation is renewed three or four times a day: on the fourth day they are suffered to become dry, and they are then rubbed between the hands and on the knees, to render them supple. They are afterwards suspended in smoke, in order that they may the better resist rain, and that they may not be injured by moisture. To this effect a small pit is dug, into which are thrown rotten wood, dry dung, and other substances which produce a plentiful smoke, sheep's dung has the preference; round the pit are placed poles, which, being made to meet at the top, form a kind of pyramid, and are entirely covered with skins, so that none of the smoke can escape. They are turned from time to time, until they are all penetrated by the smoke equally in every part, and at the end of an hour they are removed. As they are then rather hard, they are rubbed between the hands to soften them.

Lastly, they are coated with powdered chalk, then scraped, and smoothed with sharp knives: the chalk is again passed over them, and they are beaten, in order to clean the hair. So much care is not required in the preparation of the common skins. It is found to be sufficient to pass over these skins a mixture of ashes and salted water, which is more or less caustic according to the thickness of the skin. They are left for one night in this state; the next day they are scraped, and

sour milk is washed over them, at several times; they are then left to dry, and are afterwards rubbed with the hands, and bleached with chalk.

The furs which the Kalmuks use are sewed together by the women with the fibres of the horse, the bull, or the elk, which they prepare by drying, beating, and afterwards drawing them out. The seams made with these fibres are stronger than any that are sewn with the best spun thread.

The ox and horse hides, which are generally employed for harness, are tanned in the following manner: the skins, while yet fresh, are heated in boiling water until the hair comes off. They also cover them with ashes, in order to obtain the same effect. Both sides of the skins are scraped with sharp knives, and made as smooth as possible; and they are afterwards washed with clean water. They are then left to soak, for a week or more, in sour milk, a little salted. In this manner they prepare the thinnest skins for boots and strings. They fabricate with ox leather, especially the back part, vessels and bottles that are as hard as horn, and which are much used by the Kalmuks. For this purpose they spread the skins in the sun as soon as they are taken out of the water, and cut them into pieces of a size suitable to the vessels which they are intended to form. They sew them while they are still wet, with the fibres of animals, and then dry them completely in smoke.

In this manner the Kalmuk women not only fabricate vessels with large necks, to which they give whatever form they desire, by fashioning them with the hands as they dry, but they also make bottles with narrow necks, and decanters by continually blowing and holding them over a fire, or they fill them with ashes and sand. They also ornament them with figures, which are executed with much delicacy. There have even been seen among the Kalmuks large tea-pots of leather, very well formed, and having narrow tubes like ours.

The vessels thus made are used for domestic purposes; and that they may not be softened by moisture, or communicate any bad taste to the liquours that are kept in them, they are exposed for several days to smoke, in the manner above described, which renders them as hard and transparent as horn, and very durable.

*Premiums for Spinning of Fine Yarn.*

The Trustees of the Linen Manufactures have adjudged the following sums, as premiums, for spinning fine yarn in the years 1812 and 1813, to the undernamed persons:

	£. s. d.
To Sarah Frazer, Trooperfield, county Down, for spinning 40 hanks to the pound,.....	11 7 6
To Grace McMillan, Ballydrain, ditto, for spinning 40 hanks to the pound,.....	11 7 6
To Jane Irwin, Ballymackin, ditto, for spinning 40 hanks to the pound,.....	11 7 0
To Jane and Eliza Chancellor, Careyduff, ditto, for spinning 60 hanks to the pound,....	17 1 3
To Mary Corbett, Crossnacreevey, ditto, for spinning 60 hanks to the pound,.....	17 1 3
To same for spinning 40 hanks to the pound,.....	11 7 6

Besides the above, Miss McQuillen of Comber, produced a specimen of yarn, of her own spinning, which is of the weight of 128 hanks to the pound; a degree of fineness seldom, if ever, equalled by any other spinster in Europe.

The Linen Board have granted the following sums to be applied towards promoting the spinning of fine yarn, in the year to end the 5th of January, 1815, subject to the following regulations:

To the two persons who shall have spun the greatest quantity of fine yarn, not less

than 60 hanks to the pound, a premium of Fifteen Guineas each,..... 30 Guineas.

To the five persons who shall have spun the greatest quantity of fine yarn that shall be of the weight of 40 hanks to the pound, to each a premium of Ten Guineas,... 50 Guineas.

To the two persons who shall have spun the greatest quantity of yarn that shall be of the weight of 35 hanks to the pound, to each a premium of Six Guineas,..... 12 Guineas.

To the five persons who shall have spun the next greatest quantity of the like yarn, a premium of Five Guineas each,..... 25 Guineas.

To the two persons who shall have spun the next greatest quantities of the same yarn, to each a premium of Four Guineas,..... 8 Guineas.

To the two persons who shall have spun the next greatest quantities of the same yarn, to each a premium of Two Guineas,..... 4 Guineas.

All persons desirous of claiming any of these bounties, must send notice to the Inspector of the county in which they reside, or to the provincial Inspectors, as may be most convenient to them, stating that they have spun any given quantity of fine yarn, for which they mean to claim bounty.

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